

In the Drawings

Applicants propose amending the drawings as indicated on the attached replacement sheets and the annotated sheets.

A) In Figure 5:

- i) Reference numeral 46 is removed.
- ii) Reference numerals 46a, 46b, and 46b' are added.
- iii) Reference numeral 46' has been changed to numeral 46a'.

In the original disclosure, reference numeral 46 was used to reference both the split edge of the block 42 and the front surface of the block (see page 6, lines 27-28 and page 7, lines 12-16). Further, in Figure 5, the lead line for numeral 46 points to the front surface of the block 44, rather than pointing to the block 42. Therefore, reference numeral 46 was used inconsistently and on different features.

The amendments to Figure 5 provide consistent use of reference numeral 46. The result of these changes is that the split edges of both blocks 42, 44, previously identified with reference numerals 46 and 46', are now referenced using numerals 46a, 46b, 46a' and 46b'. The changes are supported by the original disclosure, for example page 6, lines 27-28.

B) In Figure 7:

- i) Reference numeral 46 has been changed to numeral 47.
- ii) Reference numerals 46a and 46b are added, as in Figure 5.

In the original disclosure, the description used reference numeral 46 to reference the split edges in Figure 5, and the front surface of the block 44 in Figure 7 (see page 6, lines 27-28 and page 7, lines 12-16). As discussed above for Figure 5, reference numeral 46 is used to reference the split edges of the blocks. Therefore, a new reference numeral is needed to refer to the front face of the block 44 in Figure 7. This change involves using a new reference numeral to refer to a feature that was originally described. Therefore, these changes do not introduce new matter.

- C) i) In Figure 8, reference numerals 22 and 24 are changed to numerals 22' and 24' respectively.
- ii) In Figure 9, reference numerals 12 and 14 are changed to numerals 12' and 14' respectively.
- iii) In Figure 10, reference numerals 12 and 14 are changed to numerals 12' and 14' respectively, for consistency with the change made to Figure 9.
- iv) In Figure 11, reference numerals 12 and 14 are changed to numerals 12' and 14' respectively, for consistency with the change made to Figure 9.

In the original disclosure, reference numerals 12 and 14 were used to reference a splitting assembly and blade, respectively, in Figure 1. These same reference numerals were also used to reference the splitting assembly and blade, respectively, in Figure 9. However, the splitting assembly in Figure 1 is different than the splitting assembly in Figure 9.

Likewise, reference numerals 22 and 24 were used to reference a splitting assembly and blade, respectively, in Figure 1. These same reference numerals were also used to reference the splitting assembly and blade, respectively, in Figure 8. However, the splitting assembly in Figure 1 is different than the splitting assembly in Figure 8.

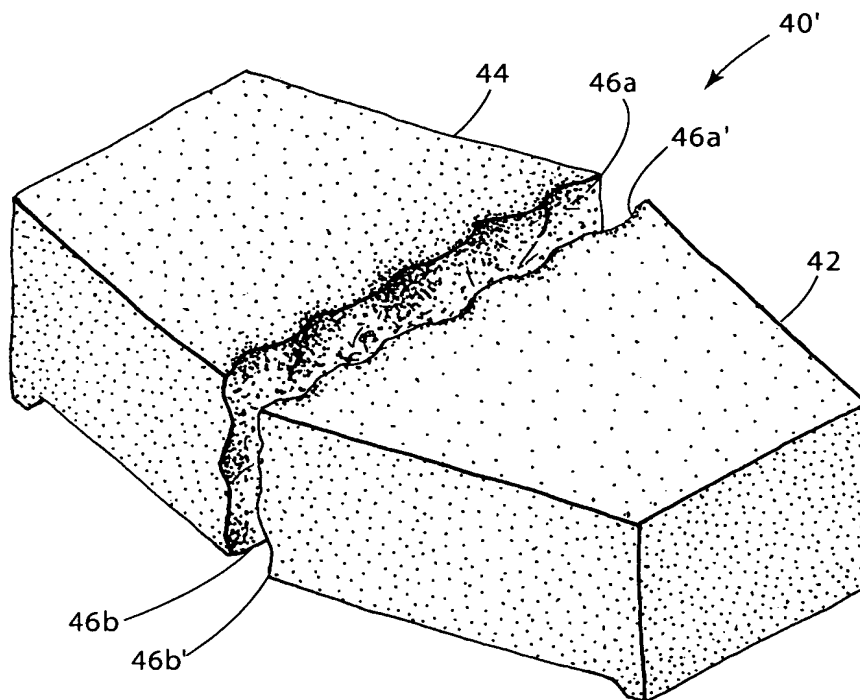
The use of the same reference numerals for each splitting assembly could cause confusion as to whether or not the splitting assemblies in Figures 1 and 9, and the splitting assemblies in Figures 1 and 8, are the same.

Therefore, reference numerals 12, 14, 22, and 24 in Figures 8-11 have been changed to 12', 14', 22', and 24', respectively, to help clarify that the splitting assemblies and blades in Figures 8-11 are not the same as the splitting assemblies shown in Figure 1. As these changes involve altering reference numerals, and it is evident from Figures 1 and 8-11 that the splitting assemblies are different, the changes are supported by the original disclosure.



Inventor: Sch... et al. (as amended)
Docket No.: ...177US11
Title: BLOCK SPLITTING ASSEMBLY AND METHOD
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Fig. 5



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 Serial No.: 09/691,864
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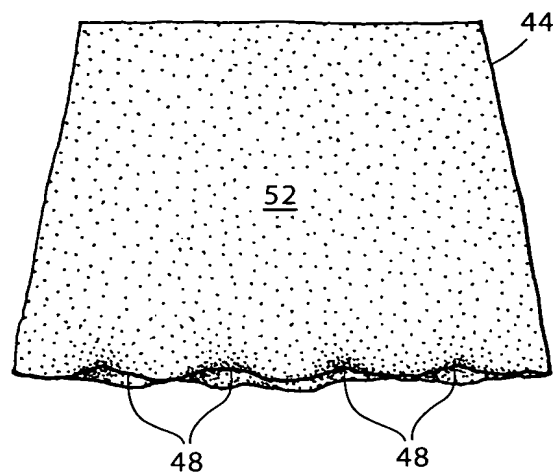


Fig. 6

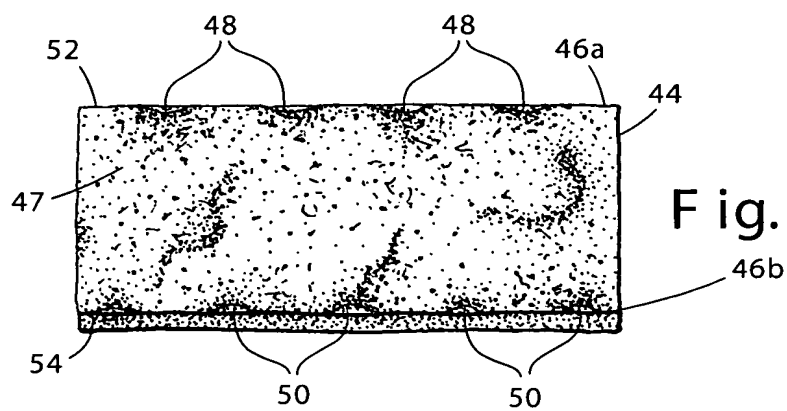


Fig. 7

FIG. 8

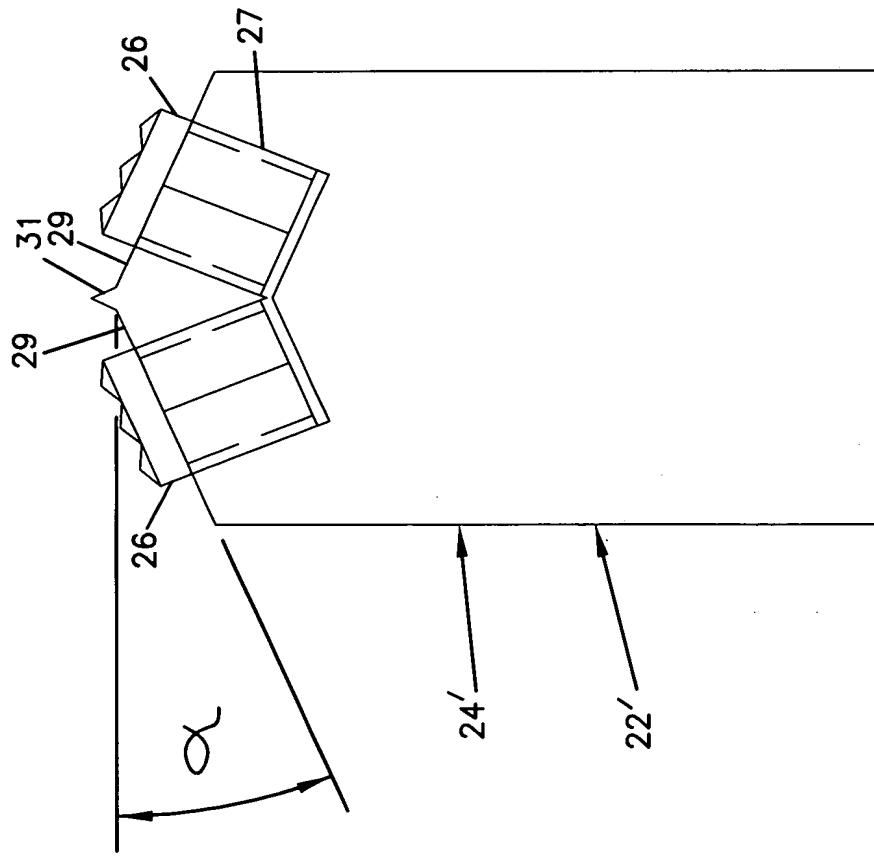


FIG. 9

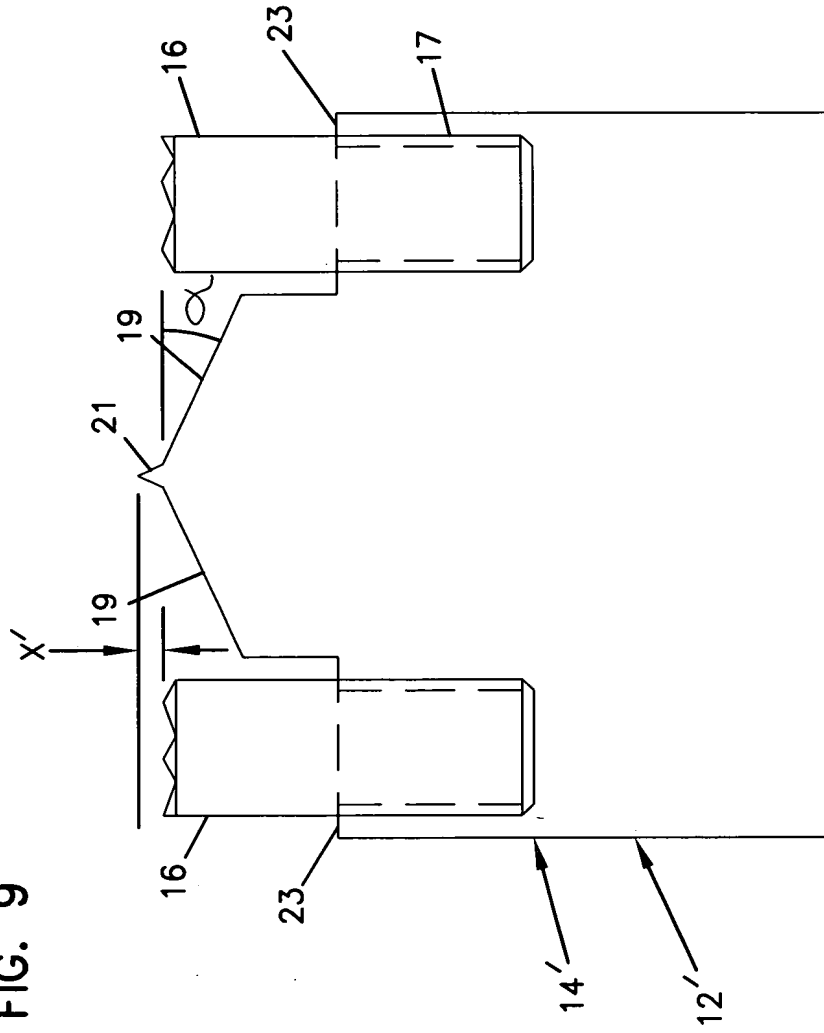
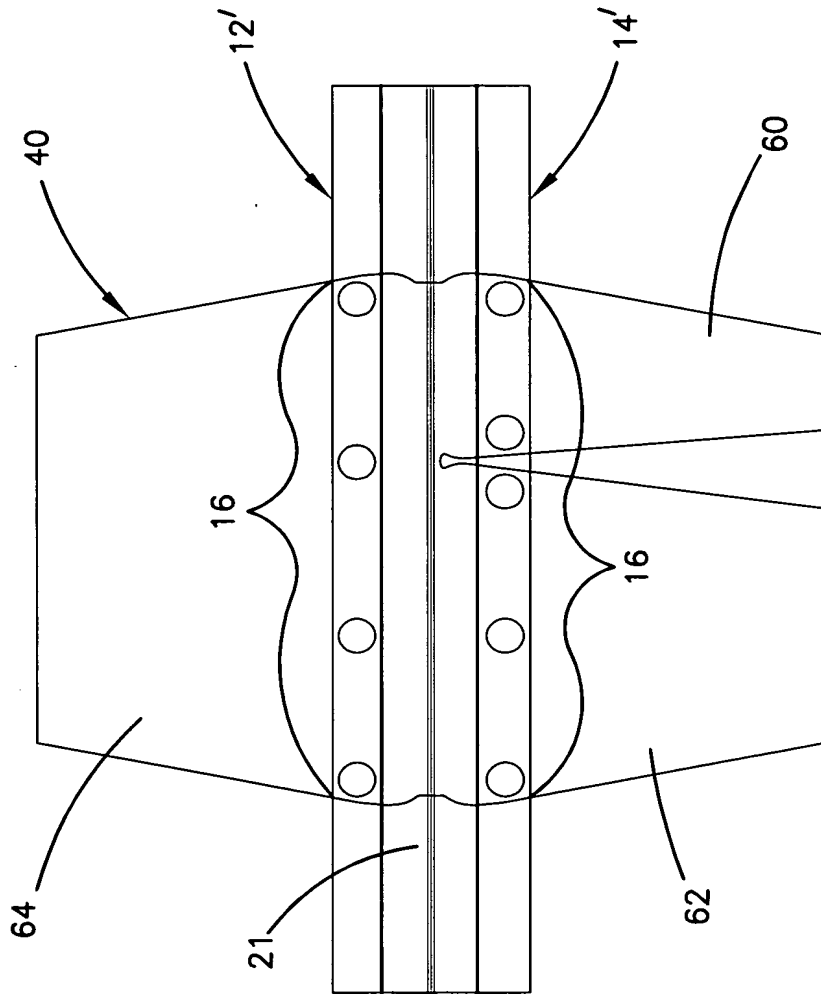


FIG. 10



Inventor: [redacted] et al. (as amended)
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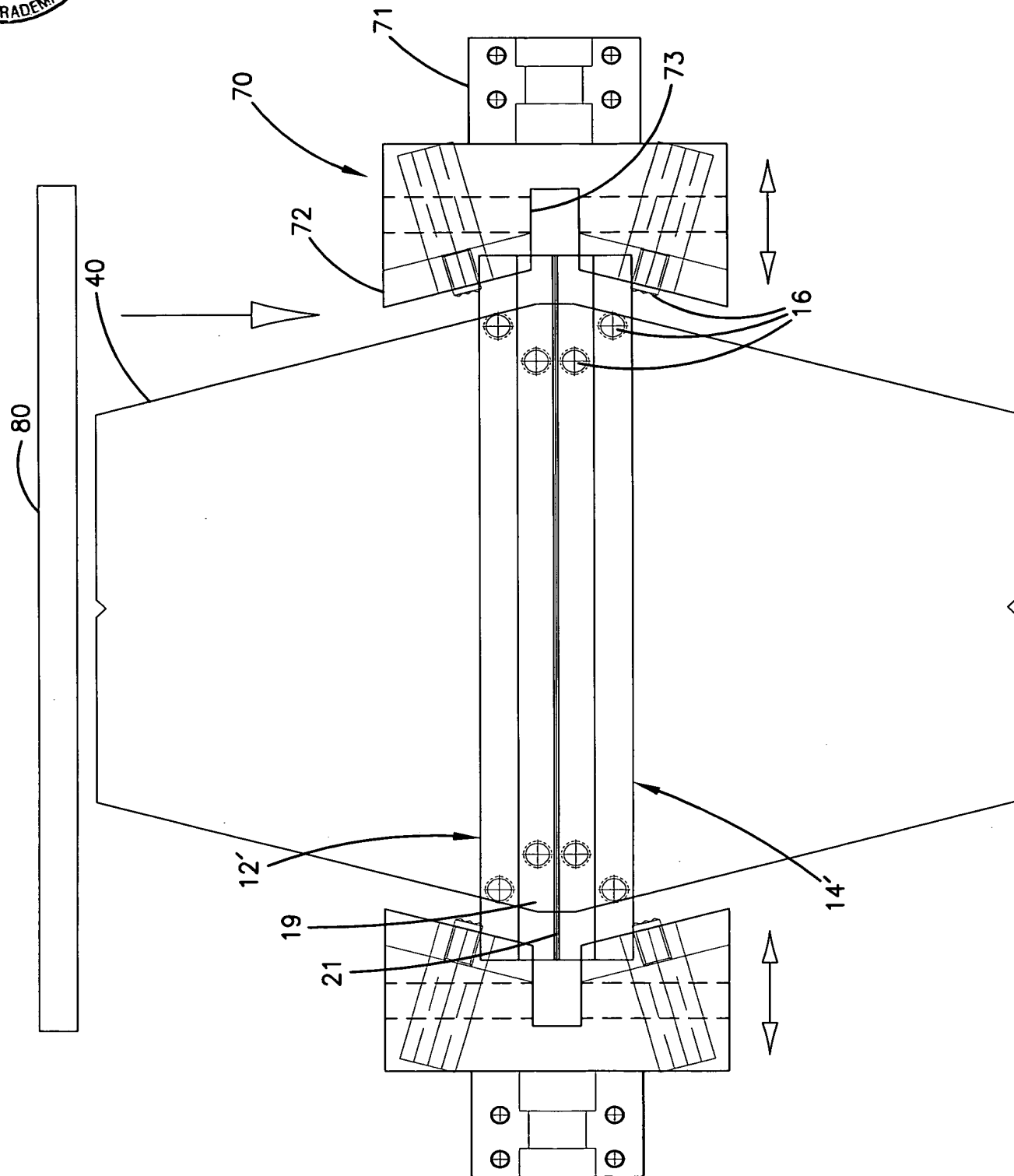


FIG. 11